

position until deciding to move on to private consulting for such clients as Cancer Cured Kids, John Bryant for Senate, Coalition for Peoples Choice and last but not least a Campaign Consultant for "McCarthy for Congress."

Mary Ellen came to work for me and the US House of Representatives as my District Director and Political Advisor in January 1997. I came to depend on Mary Ellen's breadth of knowledge to brief me and my Washington Staff on issues that directly affect my district. Her reputation has surpassed the confines of the Long Island office. My staff and I enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Mary Ellen, who is a pleasure and a delight to work with.

You only have to meet Mary Ellen once to realize that she is smart, funny and above all else, genuine. She is a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She is the best kind of friend. She laughs at your jokes, sings and dances spontaneously, listens to your tales of glee or woe with the same intensity. She helps you feel strong when you feel weak and found when you feel lost. She is the friend everyone should have. We are blessed.

Madam Speaker it is with great admiration, pride and respect that I acknowledge and thank Mary Ellen for her work in public service and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on March 16, 2009 due to the delay of my flight from Missouri.

On Monday, March 16, 2009 I missed Roll-call votes 125, 126, and 127. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 125, 126, and 127.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Encinitas, CA

Address of Requesting Entity: 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas, CA 92034

Description of Request: I secured \$285,000 in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill for the Encinitas Boulevard/Interstate 5 Interchange Project Study Report, Project Report, and Environmental Review. The City of Encinitas is contracting with an engineering consultant to prepare a Project Study Report, Project Report and Environmental Document for the Encinitas Blvd/I-5 Interchange. The

consulting firm (Dokken Engineering) is working with CALTRANS and the City of Encinitas staff to study and develop viable alternatives for four Interstate 5 interchanges, including the Encinitas Boulevard interchange. Unless the City can fund this study, Caltrans will move ahead with an environmental review and design on their "minimum build" alternative for this interchange, which assumes no under crossing widening and some roadway improvements, while maintaining the existing diamond interchange configuration. Encinitas Boulevard must be widened as part of the North Coast Interstate 5 Corridor (widening) Project or the City will suffer significant traffic congestion at this location by 2030 and probably much sooner. If the City is to have any hope of later integrating its alternative, we need to keep pace with the Interstate 5 widening project.

Requesting Member: Congressman BRIAN BILBRAY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Interstate Maintenance

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of San Diego, CA

Address of Requesting Entity: 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Description of Request: I secured \$475,000 to fund relocation of fiber optic cable that is obstructing a major interstate highway interchange improvement project to connect I-5 with S.R. 56 in San Diego. The I-5 corridor is the primary link between Southern California—San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County—and Mexico. The route experiences extensive traffic congestion, with average daily counts at the interchange site of 261,000 vehicles, including 10,000 trucks, projected to reach 430,000 daily vehicles within 20 years. The project is consistent with the authorized purpose of the Department of Transportation Interstate Maintenance account, which includes funding for the addition of new interchanges. Local and State matching funds will provide at least 20% cost share.

CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE NETWORK JOURNAL'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL 2009 TWENTY-FIVE INFLUENTIAL BLACK WOMEN IN BUSINESS HONOREES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month and The Network Journal's Eleventh Annual 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees. Since 1998, The Network Journal has recognized the outstanding performance of 25 African-American women in the public, private, entrepreneurial and non-profit sectors throughout this nation and their impact to the world economy.

The Network Journal is a monthly business magazine with more than 88,000 readers. The publication is distributed nationwide with a focus on the Tri-state area (NY/NJ/CT) and features business articles of interest such as

finance, technology, industry focus and ideas for Black professionals and small business owners. Aziz Gueye Adetimirin, Publisher of The Network Journal Magazine stated, "The women we are honoring this year are in the forefront of American leadership and symbolize the diversity and advancement that has occurred across industry lines." Founded in 1993, The Network Journal (TNJ) knows that Black professionals, more than most, recognize the importance of owning their own enterprises, but more importantly, TNJ knows that there is a difference between direct ownership and someone else defining your future. TNJ is also aware that Black professionals and entrepreneurs can chart their own course and own their success.

I am pleased to recognize TNJ's 2009 Twenty-Five Influential Black Women In Business Honorees:

Marcella Maxwell Ed.D., former Director of Development and Government Affairs Concord Family Services, Brooklyn, NY; Vernā Myers Esq. Principal, Vernā Myers Consulting Group L.L.C., Newton, Mass.; Irma Norris, Production Executive, Harpo Productions, Inc. Chicago, Illinois; Valerie Oliver-Durrah, President/CEO, Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic, Brooklyn, NY; N. Joyce Payne Ph.D., Founder, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, New York, NY; Cheryl Pegus M.D., Chief Medical Officer, SymCare Personalized Health Solutions, West Chester, Pa.; Karen Rafferty, Product Marketing Director, Chevrolet Midsize and Sports Cars, General Motors Corp., Detroit.

The Network Journal has been recognized by government agencies, premier media outlets and business and professional organizations. TNJ has received the "Outstanding Commitment and Positive Contribution to the MBE Community" from the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency, and has been featured on CNN and FOX Television networks.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, people are hurting right now, in Atlanta and across the country. It is in times like this that we need to help our neighbor. Volunteerism in these tough times is critical; that is why I want to highlight the work Emory University, in my district, is doing. Emory University has a strong history of reaching out to the community and engaging in projects to help people in need. Emory students completed nearly 150,000 hours of service in 2008, partnering with more than 200 community partners on projects related to poverty, homelessness, medical services and environmental conservation. The University's dedication to service reflects the desire in many of our students across the nation to get involved in and give back to their communities. America's young people have always been an integral part of the success of our country, and I am especially proud of Emory University's dedication to service.

Each year, the Corporation for National and Community Service recognizes institutions of higher education for exemplary efforts to engage students in service learning, community

partnerships, and volunteer service by publishing The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. At the top of the Honor Roll is a small group of institutions of higher education who are given the Presidential Award for General Community Service. I am proud to announce that Emory has been awarded the 2008 Presidential Award. This is the highest award possible for a college or university with respect to community service and student engagement. I want to recognize and thank Emory University for its commitment to giving back to the community and fostering a sense of service among its students.

Congratulations to Emory University on being honored as a recipient of the 2008 Presidential Award for General Community Service.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE STAFF SERGEANT TIMOTHY BOWLES

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Air Force Staff Sergeant Timothy Bowles, who was killed in action with three fellow Airmen when his armored vehicle struck a buried IED near Kot, Afghanistan on March 15, 2009. He leaves behind father, his Louis, a Retired Airman, his mother, Lisa, and a sister, Heather.

Born in Anchorage, Alaska, Timothy grew up on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and lived much of his life in Tucson, where his father was stationed. Timothy graduated from Tucson High School in 2002 and attended Pima Community College before joining the Air Force in 2007. Staff Sergeant Bowles was assigned to the 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base back in Alaska, where he was trained to be a fire truck mechanic. But on this day, he volunteered to stand in for a fellow airman who was not feeling well.

Timothy's Provincial Reconstruction Team was headed out to Jalalabad to check on a local schoolhouse when a pressure-plate IED ended his life. He was only twenty-four years old.

Born to and raised among the United States Air Force, Staff Sergeant Bowles knew well the costs of war. He volunteered for the nine-month deployment that took him to Bagram Air Base in November 2008. He volunteered for this dangerous duty. Tying humanitarian support to local security, Timothy and his PRT teammates stood between civilians and insurgents as Afghans seek to rebuild their long-oppressed country.

We remember Sergeant Bowles and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Timothy's legacy reaches beyond the desolate landscape of Afghanistan and into the hearts of a grateful nation.

This body and this country owe Timothy and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that

we remember him and his fellow servicemembers who have paid the ultimate price.

Timothy is a hero both to his country and to his wonderful family. We salute his selfless service, sacrifice and bravery. May he not be forgotten and may his mission continue in the work of this body and the hearts of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD CATCHER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the many residents of my district in recognizing the works and accomplishments of Bernard Catcher who will be honored for his service on March 20th as a "Good Friend and Temple Benefactor" at Temple Shalom's Shabbat Across America Dinner. Bernard Catcher is a man known to me for his hard work and dedication to Brooklyn residents and his sound advice and counsel to those seeking political or community insight. Bernard Catcher's service and reach is legendary. He is the Democratic District Leader of the 59th Assembly District, the head of the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, advisor to the Thomas Jefferson Young Democrats and has served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. His concern for our communities knows no bounds and stretches over many years. He has served as District Manager of Planning Board 18, serves as the Government Liaison to Coney Island Hospital, and is an accountant by trade. He is active in, and has been recognized by, many local civic organizations from Marine Park to Canarsie and has been honored as "Man of the Year" by the Mill Island Civic Association, among others, for his service. Even with all his other activities Bernard Catcher always finds time and energy to dedicate to Jewish causes and take pride in his Jewish roots. He has served as an officer in the local Bnai Brith and serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Shalom of Flatbush. Always one to shy away from recognition preferring to do his work behind the scenes, I am honored and privileged to have this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the force of nature that is Bernard Catcher and offer my best wishes on his being named "Good Friend and Benefactor" at the Shabbat Across America Dinner at Temple Shalom on March 20th, 2009.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM F. PITTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Lieutenant General William F. Pitts. Today, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible man who dedicated his life in service to our country. On Tuesday, December 30, 2008, Lt. Gen. Pitts passed away at the age of 89.

Lt. Gen. Pitts' father was a career military officer, and Lt. Gen. Pitts was born at March Field Hospital, located in Riverside, California, on Thanksgiving Day 1919. When he was 10 years old, Lt. Gen. Pitts took his first airplane ride and vowed to become an Air Force pilot. In 1943, he graduated from West Point and flew 25 World War II missions against Japan in a B-29 Superfortress. In his last mission in the bomber, he was shot down off the coast of Japan but was able to parachute out of the plane and was rescued by a submarine.

After Lt. Gen. Pitts' heroic service during World War II, he was steadily promoted and earned three stars. He served as a NATO commander in Turkey, four tours at the Pentagon and also as a diplomat in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, England and Taiwan. In 1972, Lt. Gen. Pitts returned to March Air Force Base as the Commander of the 15th Air Force. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with an oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem with one oak leaf cluster and the Purple Heart.

In 1975, Lt. Gen. Pitts retired from the Air Force and he and his wife, Doris, made Riverside their permanent home in the 1990s. He was active in the March community during his retirement, helping to keep the base open during the Base Realignment and Closure process. In honor of his efforts, March erected a stone post at the parade grounds on the base. He was also a board member of the March Field Museum.

On December 22, 2008, Lt. Gen. Pitts celebrated his 60th anniversary with his wife Doris. He is survived by his wife; daughters Cowgill, Alisha and Linda; sister Nanetta Atkinson; and four grandchildren.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men like Lt. Gen. Pitts who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. Lt. Gen. Pitts was a dear friend and above all, he was a patriot. He will be sorely missed but his legacy and service to our great nation will always be remembered.

RESOLUTION REGARDING GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN PAKISTAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the strong concern of the House of Representatives about the actions of the Taliban in Swat, Pakistan to restrict girls' access to education. In the past year, the deliberate destruction of hundreds of schools for girls has forced more than 40,000 young women to forego schooling. This resolution would urge the Government of Pakistan to act swiftly to halt and reverse the Taliban's unconstitutional ban on education for girls. It also encourages the Secretary of State to review and report on Pakistan's progress in protecting the rights of